

Prairie Falcon was seen near Flasher, and a lone Swainson's Hawk was noticed near Buffalo Springs, to sum up the birds actually seen. The Marsh Hawk is holding its own and many birds of this species were seen in all parts of the state. The Upland Plover was gone from the regions visited, and one lone pair was found at Buffalo Springs Lake in Bowman County. In many suitable places the writer found scattered pairs of Western Willets and Marbled Godwits, but the Upland Plovers were not to be found. Possibly the birds are being killed off in their winter home, as I doubt if many are killed in the summer or during migrations.—WM. YOUNGWORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

"The House Wren.—The mischievousness of the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon* Verill) is well known. The following incident came under my observation a short time since. A pair of Martins had taken possession of a box that I had erected in the garden for their benefit; had built their nest, laid their eggs, and had commenced setting, when a pair of house wrens, who coveted their neighbor's house, entered it in the absence of the Martins, and coolly picked up their eggs one by one, carried them out, and dropped them to the ground below. While engaged in this impudent business, the Martins returned, and while going in at one of the entrances of the box, the daring marauders darted out at the other, and alighting on a tree near by chattered noisily, apparently in great glee. The Martins, finding that their nest had been despoiled, abandoned the box, which was then duly taken possession of by the wrens, who reared two broods of young hopefuls during the summer, the first about the beginning of June, the second the latter part of July.—M. S. Hill, East Liverpool, O." (In the *American Naturalist*, Volume III, March, 1870, page 49).

Winter-killing of Mourning Doves in Central Iowa.—Creek bottomlands grown up to wild hemp (*Cannabis*) are especially favored by late migrating or wintering Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) in the vicinity of Ames, Iowa. By late November of 1934, there seemed to be something less than a dozen Mourning Doves (I should judge between eight and ten) wintering about the hemp growths along approximately four miles of Squaw Creek, from the College northwestward. Most of these were concentrated in a tract of about fifteen acres of bottomlands, characterized by dense hemp patches and scattered large trees. To appearances, the food supply was immediately adequate, and the doves were not suffering any conspicuous mortality. Then a heavy snow fell from November 29 to December 3 and persisted for the next few weeks. As a consequence most of the hemp seeds were made unavailable to the doves with the exception of the small quantities still retained on the plants.

The favorite habitat of the Mourning Doves was the regular feeding ground of a covey of sixteen Bob-white Quail (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*) and was visited irregularly by a covey the wintering territory of which was adjacent to the south. With the advent of the December snow, the Bob-whites to the south turned for food to a cornfield in their territory, and thus averted a crisis. The resident covey lost half of its number, largely from starvation, by January 7, and starved out entirely during the winter.

From December 8 to 11, five Mourning Doves were found dead, including three so thoroughly cleaned up by scavengers that only feathers remained. Two carcasses were intact, however, and were carefully examined. Of these latter, one weighed seventy-nine grams and the other eighty-seven grams, or probably between sixty and seventy-five per cent of their full weights. Neither showed extreme

emaciation, but their breast contours indicated an exhaustion of reserve. The stomachs of both were empty, save for a small amount of gravel and hemp seed debris. There were no recognizable injuries.

The snow revealed plainly how the birds picked up intact had met death. The heavier had died quietly in the night at the base of a tree on the exact spot upon which it had alighted. The other was found in early afternoon, no more than a few hours after death. It had terminated its last flight with a twenty-inch slide on the snow. On December 11, one weakly flying dove was flushed in late afternoon from its probable night roost under the roots of a tree overhanging the creek. Feathers were found January 7 at about the place where this bird was last seen.

So far as I have been able to determine, the only Mourning Dove to survive in this general area of about five square miles was one seen on January 21 near a farm yard, where it doubtless had access to grain.—PAUL L. ERRINGTON, *Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.*

Some Bird Notes from Utah.—During the past several years, while collecting birds in the vicinity of Provo, Utah, the following three rather interesting bird records have been made by the writer. Assistance in identifications was kindly given by Dr. Clarence Cottam, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., and Mr. C. Lynn Hayward, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

On September 30, 1932, in a flooded meadow just south of Provo, two specimens of the Eastern Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus griseus*) were taken. Both were females in the winter plumage. They are Nos. 831 and 832, Brigham Young University collection.

On February 22, 1934, at the mouth of Provo River on Utah Lake, a large white gull was seen feeding with a mixed flock of Ring-billed and California Gulls. An attempt was made to collect the stranger, but he proved to be too wary. On February 28 he was joined by a second bird of the same species. The two seemed to have little, if any, affinity for each other, but were seen a number of times in the same flocks of other gulls. After a number of attempts, one of the birds was finally collected with a small-calibre rifle, on March 14, 1934. It was determined as a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*), a male in typical second-year plumage. On subsequent visits to the lake the remaining bird was seen until April 15.

On the evening of February 22, 1934, three strange finches were seen going to roost on the top of some piles a few rods out in the water on the east shore of Utah Lake, near the mouth of Provo River. Since boots were not available, no attempt was made to collect them that evening. However, three nights later the birds returned to the same roost, the male and one of the females coming to rest on the same pile. A shot sent the female tumbling into the water, but the male, though apparently wounded, escaped with the other female into the dusk. Examination revealed the bird to be an Eastern Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*). This skin, together with that of the Glaucous Gull, remains in the writer's collection.—D. ELMER JOHNSON, *Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.*

A Blue-winged Warbler Record for Decatur County, Indiana.—On June 12, 1934, while searching for a bird's nest that a neighbor had told me about, I had the pleasure of placing bands upon three immature Blue-winged Warblers (*Vermivora pinus*). From the description of the nest for which I was searching that had been given me, I believed it to be that of the Grasshopper Sparrow.